silver has increased during the last two years. However the quantity and value of gold and silver seized for the years 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990 (upto February) are given in the table below. :

Year	Gold		Silver	
	Quantity (in kgs)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)	Quantity (in kgs)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1987	2254·767	6578	16,994	906
1988	6093·785	20050	16,992	1056
1989	8214·816	25960	99,322	6757
*1990 (upto February)	535	1968	57,488	4049

*Figures are provisional

The value of seizures of gold in 1989 when compared to the value of seizures during 1987-1988 show an increase of 264·33% and 34.80% respectively. Similarly the value of seizures of silver in 1988 when compared to the value of the seizures during 1987 and 1989 have shown in increase of 484.45% and 484.52% respectively.

(d) The main reason for smuggling of gold and silver into the country is large domestic demand resulting in a wide differential between the international and domestic prices providing an incentive to their smuggling into the country. Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not feasible to estimate the quantity of gold and silver smuggled into the country and consequently it is not feasible to estimate the impact of their smuggling on domestic prices. However, the domestic prices would show a downward trend in case the quantity of gold and silver smuggled into the country exceeds the domestic demand.

(e) Anti-smuggling drive throughout the country has been intensified. The anti-smuggling machinery particularly in vulnerable areas of seacoast, land borders and the international seaports and airports remain alert to check and combat smuggling of contraband. Sophisticated anti-smuggling equipment such as X-ray baggage machines, metal detectors are utilised for prevention and detection of gold concealed on person of passengers and their baggage/incargo. Close co-ordination is maintained with all the concerned agencies in the prevention and detection of smuggling of contraband.

Handling of incoming MMTC cargo at North Delhi godown

330. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the surveyors had recently reported to the MMTC regarding the nefarious activities of its employees in pilfering and manipulation of weight in connivance with the handling agent of incoming MMTC cargo at a North Delhi godown;

(b) if so what are the detail thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by Government into the matter on the basis of the report of the Surveyors; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome thereof stating the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : (a) to (d) The Surveyors who had been appointed by MMTC for their North Delhi Godown had reported against the employees and handling agent in the godown. The complaints were of a general nature except one where it was alleged that two zinc slabs were stolen. MMTC had enquired into the matter through its vigilance division and found that the two pieces alleged to have been stolen were actually lying in the godown but had got mixed up with other stacks. Since no shortage was found, question of taking any action against anyone does not arise.

Improvement of Tourism facilities at Ooty, Kodaikanal and Yercard

331. SHRI M. VINCENT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation had requested the Central Government for improving facilities by adding 30 new boats each at Ooty, Kodaikanal and Yercard; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Central Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to late receipt of the proposal from State Government, it could not be included for financial assistance during current annual plan. However, it would be considered subject to its merit inter-se-priorities and availability of funds during next financial year.

Losses suffered by the ITDC Hotels

332. SHRI BASUDEV MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of hotels functioning under the India Tourism Development Corporation in the country at present;

(b) whether these hotels are running on profits or losses during the last three financial years; and

(c) what procedure is adopted for the selection of the members of the Board of Directors of these hotels ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : (a) ITDC at present owns and operates 25 hotels in the country.

(b) Profit/loss of the ITDC hotels during the last 3 years and during the current year (upto Jan. 90) is given in Annexure [*See* Appendix No. CLIII Annexnre No. 9].

(c) There is no separate Board of Directors for the hotels of ITDC. However, ITDC has a Board of Directors for the Corporation as a whole. The Directors are appointed by the Government in accordance with the Articles of Association of ITDC.

Elections to the Metropolitan Council in Delhi

333. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Com-